

The hearing will take place on July 28, 1998 at 9:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the March 31, 1998, Government Accounting Office report on the Forest Service: Review of the Alaska Region's Operating Costs.

Those who wish to submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. For further information, please call Amie Brown or Mark Rey at (202) 224-6170.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, July 8, 1998, at 9:30 am on High Definition Television (HDTV).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, July 8, 1998, at 2:00 pm on S. 2105—Government Paperwork Elimination Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 8, 1998 at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing on S. 1419, Miccosukee Land, S. 391, Cheyenne River Sioux Compensation, S. 1905, Mississippi Sioux Judgment Funds and H.R. 700, Agua Caliente. The hearing will be held in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on The Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 8, 1998 at 9:00 a.m. in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building to hold a hearing on S.J. Res. 40, Joint Resolution Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on The Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 8, 1998 at 1:00 p.m.

in Room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building to hold a hearing on S. 1529, The Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1998.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 8, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. to hold a closed hearing on Intelligence Matters and at 2:30 p.m. to hold an open confirmation hearing on the nomination of L. Britt Snider to be Inspector General of CIA.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY, EXPORT, AND TRADE PROMOTION

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on International Economic Policy, Export and Trade Promotion be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 8, 1998 at 10:00 am to hold a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, PROLIFERATION, AND FEDERAL SERVICES

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation, and Federal Services to meet on Wednesday, July 8, 1998 at 2:00 p.m. for a hearing on The Adequacy of Commerce Department Satellite Export Controls.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TOBACCO SETTLEMENT LEGISLATION

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to comment on Senate action last month on S. 1415, the comprehensive tobacco settlement legislation, and to explain the votes I cast on various amendments, motions to invoke cloture, and other procedural matters relating to this legislation.

At the outset, I would like to thank the floor manager of the legislation, Senator MCCAIN, for his absolutely outstanding work on the tobacco settlement legislation. As Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, the distinguished Senator from Arizona took on the difficult task of bringing our Committee together to report out comprehensive tobacco settlement legislation.

Mr. President, I believe that passing a tobacco bill would be good, but only if it is the right bill. In my judgment, if we are to pass such a bill, it should follow a number of important principles. First, it should increase funding for research on tobacco-related illnesses. Second, it should provide funds

for smoking cessation programs, anti-tobacco education programs, and counter-advertising. Third, it should include programs to combat drug abuse among our kids, a crisis that demands just as much attention as youth smoking. Fourth, it should not place unfair burdens on our small businesses. And finally, it should accomplish these goals without imposing a huge net tax increase on the American people.

Last summer, the tobacco industry started this process when it entered into a settlement with the Attorneys General of several States, a settlement which required congressional action. I voted to report out this legislation from the Commerce Committee, with the hope that it could be modified in ways to achieve the above-stated goals through more amendments to the legislation, through consideration in the House, and through an eventual conference. While many improvements were added to the legislation—such as the addition of the Coverdell-Craig-Abraham “Drug Free Neighborhoods Act” and the Gramm amendment to reduce the marriage penalty tax—more were clearly needed to achieve the goals set forth above.

My vote for cloture was designed to move the process ahead in the hope that we could pass a bill and that it would meet the standards set forth above. It did not signal my intent to vote for final passage of any legislation that remained following the amendment process. Had cloture succeeded, it was my intention to work with others in offering amendments to modify the bill to achieve my aforesaid goals.

Following the failure to invoke cloture, it became clear that we were not going to be able to move the bill forward in the way I would have liked. In light of this, and my belief as a member of the Budget Committee that we should keep the budget balanced, I voted with Senator STEVENS on his budget point of order. Senator STEVENS raised a point of order that the tobacco legislation was inconsistent with the budget agreement reached last year between the Congress and the President. I voted against the motion to waive that point of order, which sent the legislation back to the Commerce Committee where, perhaps, we can devise a more acceptable bill.

Mr. President, let me just comment briefly on some of the major amendments that were voted on during the course of the floor consideration of this bill.

I joined Senators CRAIG and COVERDELL in offering the “Drug Free Neighborhoods Act” as an amendment to the tobacco legislation. We are falling very far behind in the war on drugs, and teenage drug use has particularly become much worse in recent years. In the last six years, for instance, the percentage of high school seniors admitting that they had used an illicit drug has risen by more than half. Sadly, nearly 20 percent of our eighth graders